



News

Edition: 3



25 October 2019

CEO Update



Dear Parents/Carers.

Thank you for all your support and care this half term. As we enter the autumnal season in earnest next half term, I would ask you to continue the excellent care you take around your child's attendance and wider health needs, particularly as the colder weather sets in. We are very much looking forward to meeting you during our first Parents Evening of the academic year on Wednesday 13th November 4:30m - 7:00 p.m. This important event will enable you to purposefully review your child's progress and wider developmental needs within the first ten weeks of our school and College year. ► **Robin Bush**

Headlines



Thank you to those of you who were able to join us for our Harvest Assembly on Wednesday

23rd October. We are very proud of the teamwork promoted throughout all the individual class performances. It was very pleasing to witness in particular three of our four new values being modelled by our young people through 'Creativity', 'Resilience' and most notably 'Confidence'. We gained some lovely feedback from parents who were able to enjoy some refreshments after the event.

"Superb production as usual. Great to see the pupils making progress as individuals. Further evidence of the teamwork and unity of the staff without whom more of this would be possible. Resilience and brilliantness personified."

Some three weeks into my role as 'Head of Education', I completely echo these sentiments and wish you all a safe, restful and inspiring half-term break. ► **Stuart Jamieson**

HARVEST 2019

Thanks to all family and friends who attended our live performance-based Harvest celebration. The performers were just incredible and ranged in talents from reading about the theme of our Harvest 'supporting our food banks to singing songs about crops and autumn time. I know many of you enjoyed tea and biscuits later and we thank you for the wonderful comments that you made. So we are now looking forward to seeing you at our Christmas Special... details to follow.



£20,000 WIN IN GIVEAWAY FROM

PERSIMMON

We were absolutely delighted to be announced winners at the Persimmon Homes Building Futures campaign on Tuesday 8th October 2019. We represented the North West in the education & arts category at a gala dinner held at York Racecourse. We were one of 96 finalists in the housebuilder's £1million giveaway to good causes working with young people aged under 18. To win a massive **£20,000** was fantastic! It was a very emotional evening with a broad range of groups from across the country being represented so for us to win a sum like this was incredible. This is a huge boost to our fundraising which allows us to complete our rebound therapy project. Thanks to **Persimmon Homes** for this initiative and thanks to all of you who voted for us over the summer months – together we did it!



INSIDE

Lakeside & LEAP

NEWSLETTER



BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT



Last week the Wargrave House School and College basketball team went on tour to play a friendly against Mill Green School. Team Wargrave were well led by Khovan whom students had voted as their Captain. Two games were played, WHS won one and drew the second. Although I was extremely proud of the skill and way the team played, it was the manner in which the students conducted themselves which really filled me with pride. Students were the most amazing ambassadors for WHS, showing resilience, team work, empathy, manners and kindness. The icing on the cake, was that the students had fun, here are a few quotes from the team:

'It was fun and challenging' - Alicia

'I felt proud to represent the school' - Khovan

'Amazing, just playing a different school, when's the next match?' - Brandon

Brandon, watch this space, following on from the success of this game further fixtures are planned with Lansbury Bridge and Mill Green. WHS will be hosting a table tennis social on Thursday 28th November.

► Carol Woodward | PE Co-ordinator



FOREST SCHOOLS: Outdoor Education

► Nic Brown

Did you know? The latest research about spending time in nature and

wellbeing states that immersing yourself in a green space for just twenty minutes reduces the stress hormone cortisol. This proves that the connection between nature and wellbeing cannot be ignored. This is why it's so important for our young people to be provided with the opportunity to experience the outdoors.

The intent of Forest Schools sessions at Wargrave is for our young people to build emotional resilience, engage in risk taking and to develop positive mental health. These are only a few benefits of the approach. From leading recent sessions, the impact that has been observed on our young people has been:

- experiencing success
- increased independence
- developing environmental awareness
- practicing leadership skills
- experiencing leading own learning
- positive mental well-being

Forest Schools sessions will continue as part of Health and Fitness and hopefully they will go from strength to strength. Our next goal is to secure a permanent site for the sessions and for myself as the leader, continue to learn about the approach and strive to provide experiences which support the holistic development of our learners.



Halloween



KAZOKU SELF DEFENCE

BASE 3 have earned a yellow belt (Level 1) in Krav Maga according to the rules of Kazoku Self Defence.

► Shireen & Dean (instructors)



WARGRAVE CHARACTER VALUES



At Wargrave House School we acknowledge that the experiences provided for Learners during their education has a major impact on their future wellbeing and success. It is for this reason that we have made a whole school commitment to the teaching and development of character traits, attributes and behaviours which underpin achievement and success; endeavouring to ensure that developing 'character' goes hand in hand with high educational aspirations and achievement.

Our four character values are:



Kindness: Learners are encouraged to speak politely and to show tolerance towards the beliefs and values of others; to value friendship and kindness; to show honesty; and to develop the capacity to be empathetic and caring.



Creativity: Learners are encouraged to question and challenge. They will make connections and see relationships, envisaging what might be, exploring ideas and keeping options open, reflecting critically on ideas, actions and outcomes.



Confidence: Learners are encouraged to think for themselves, take risks, show initiative, ask questions, make decisions, solve problems, make connections and communicate their ideas. Learners are also encouraged to be responsible members of the learning community and are supported in their ability to make good choices and decisions.



Resilience: Learners are encouraged to take risks with their learning, knowing that learning new things is not easy and mistakes might happen. Learners are encouraged to try again, demonstrating perseverance.

Our weekly Values Assembly supports Learners to develop their understanding of the 4 key values and rewards students for demonstrating these in all aspects of School life. Students also receive house points and can exchange these for concrete prizes or experiences in our weekly reward shop.

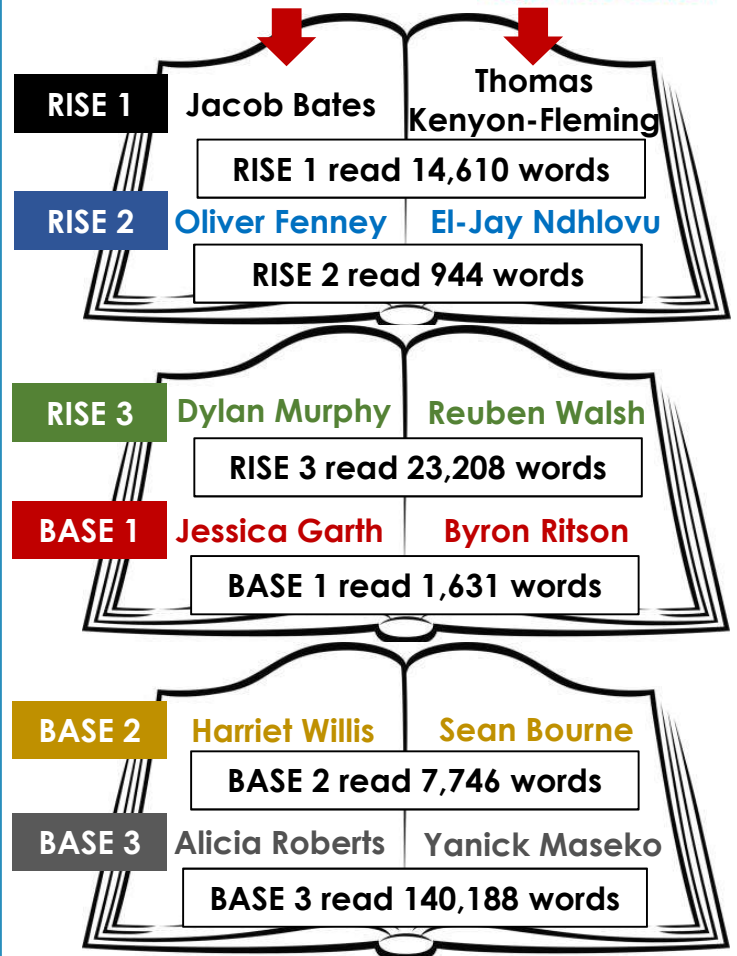
► Claire Thompson

ACCELERATED READER

Students across main school have been challenged to read every day to improve literacy.



Most Words Read Most Quizzes Taken



Well done to all students for a fantastic effort!

► Caroline Gorman

ATTENDANCE

A huge well done to all our students this half term for their excellent attendance in these



autumnal and wintry days. Special mentions for 100% attendance go to: **Reuben, Jacob, Max, Sean, James, Greg, Alfie, Ben, Joe, Maxim, John, Yanick, Ritchie, Owen, El-Jay, Christopher, Will, Marcus, Brandon, Samyukth & Rhys.** A special certificate is on its way to mark your achievements. Congratulations to all our students who have had good attendance as this tells us how much you love your school, college and learning!

► Michelle Heneghan



CEREBRA WORKSHOP



As Family Liaison Officer, I've recently sent out letters to all for the cerebra workshop. This is an exciting opportunity for you all and wouldn't want to you to miss out. Please return the letters and let me know if you can attend. . If you require more information on Cerebra, please check out their website www.cerebra.org.uk I hope you will consider joining us; all parents and carers are welcome.

BURSARY



For all post 16 Lakeside and LEAP families, please don't forget to apply. Your son/daughter may be eligible for monies to help support their educational needs. Parents have spent the money, for example, on the Lakeside residential, apps for learning, clothing, travel, pocket monies for college social activities, etc. Please do get in touch if you would like to apply and I will send you an application form.

BLUE BADGE CHANGES

BLUE BADGE HOLDERS

The Government has made changes to the Blue Badge Scheme which came into force on 29th August 2019. What this means is that the expanded eligibility criteria will enable many more autistic people to qualify for a Blue Badge. Under the new rules, there will be two ways in which an autistic person or their family can apply for a Blue Badge. This includes if you can't undertake a journey without being at risk of serious harm, it causing very considerable psychological distress or if you have very considerable difficulty walking. For more information on the changes to the Blue Badge Scheme, or to apply please go to www.gov.uk/apply-blue-badge or go to www.autism.org.uk and search 'Blue Badge'.

► Natalie Molyneux – Family Liaison Officer

2019 What's On?



Dates for Your Diary



► Lakeside 'Teardrops' Tea Party ◀
Friday 8th November, 10:30am-11:15am



► Children in Need: Big Morning Move ◀
Friday 15th November



► Cerebra Workshop Coffee Morning ◀
Friday 29th November, 10am-2pm



► Oral Hygiene Workshop – with Robert ◀
Friday 20th March 2020



► Coffee Morning – details TBC ◀
Friday 3rd June 2020



E - Safety



PARENTAL CONTROLS

Adults can set these up to monitor what their children and young people are doing online. Parents can block access to certain types of website which may contain things that are not suitable for younger people. Google "online parental controls" or call your Internet Service Provider for more information.



www.internetmatters.org
www.safetynetkids.org.uk

ONLINE POSTS

REMEMBER! What you post online (comments, pictures or videos) can stay online FOREVER – even if you delete them. Never post anything you may later regret. Be kind, be thoughtful, be wise.



FIRE DRILL



As part of our ongoing commitment to health and safety and continuous improvement we undertook a planned fire drill in main school on Tuesday 22nd October. We are pleased to say everyone evacuated quickly and exited the building safely during the drill and we commend the maturity and excellent behaviour of our students during the drill.

► Sharon Hughes – Estate Manager

COMPUTER MODELLING



Students in BASE have been creating 3D models of houses using online TinkerCAD software. This software requires new skills which most students have picked up really quickly and made some excellent designs.

► Mr Whittaker



LAKESIDE College

This half term has seen lots of curriculum activities in Lakeside College. Lakeside students are enjoying making their own meals, exploring the world of work, visiting new places in the community and planning some wonderful coffee mornings, next coffee morning is to support Teardrops Homeless Charity in St Helens, watch this space for updates. Lakeside's new curriculum content is around employability skills and preparation for adulthood. We hope you enjoy the photos of our amazing young people embracing their curriculum and time at Lakeside college. Students have opportunities across the week to access:

- ▶ Accredited courses – City and Guilds Maths and English, Open Awards, Functional Skills ICT, Open Awards Personal Progress.
 - ▶ Vocational courses – In House and External – Open Awards SFLE personalised pathways into employment, Open Awards Making Informed Career Choices.
 - ▶ Local community/college visits to support transitions and understanding about travel in the community
 - ▶ Leisure Skills programmes led by Carol Woodward.
 - ▶ Independent Living Skills, Community Skills, Health and Fitness, Employability – non accredited pathways
- RARPA (Recognising and Recording Progress and Achievement) is the process to measure the progress and achievement of learners on non-accredited learning programmes.



HELPING THE HOMELESS



Lakeside student, Owen, went to visit the Teardrops Hub in St. Helens on Wednesday 23rd October. He was made to feel very welcome and the centre manager gave Owen a good insight into the work they are carrying out to help the homeless in and around the Town. All money raised for our next tea party on Friday 8th November at 10am will go to the Teardrops charity and go some way into providing free hot drinks and meals to their service users.



LEAP & LAKESIDE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENTS



CEIAG:

LEAP and Lakeside Staff and students would very much like to say a HUGE thank you to the following Employers and Community Groups who have supported them, not only this half term, but across each academic year. Our partnerships with Employers and Community Groups support the students' understanding of what skills and knowledge they require in the workplace, it gives them opportunities to try employment pathways they would otherwise have not known about and they can ask questions relevant to their future planning and career pathways.

A BIG SHOUT OUT TO Veolia, Galliford Try, Mercure Hotel, Enovert, Amazon, Marks and Spencer, Earlestown Cricket Club, Friends of Lyme and Wood, Newton Rangers, Kazuko Martial Arts, Greenslate Community Farm, Walton Lea Project, Crownway Community Centre, Newton Community Centre... Without their continued support, the students in LEAP and Lakeside College wouldn't have such a variety of experiential work related opportunities.

LEAP Specialist College

LEAP students have demonstrated their incredible skills across this half term engaging with their curriculum positively and enthusiastically sharing with the OFSTED Inspection Team their many achievements. The LEAP curriculum is designed to provide rich, interesting and enjoyable learning experiences that take into account individual student needs, abilities, preferences and interests. Students have opportunities across the week to access:

► Accredited courses – City and Guilds: Maths and English, Open Awards, Functional Skills ICT



► Vocational courses – In House and External: Open Awards SFLE personalised pathways into employment



► Local College and community visits to support transition



SPECIAL MENTION... to **Enovert** and **Scott Lancaster** for supporting LEAP Students in their application to receive support from the Co-op community fund. The bid was successful and we would very much appreciate it if friends and family of Wargrave House School, Lakeside College and LEAP College would become members of the Co-op to help raise funds for LEAP Students to use to further support their work placement experience and enable them to become more active community volunteers.



► Independent Travel Training – Open Awards accredited qualification



► Leisure Skills programmes – accessing the local Gym and Kazuko Self Defence Warrington



► Independent Living Skills, Community Skills, Health and Fitness, Employability – non accredited pathways RARPA (Recognising and Recording Progress and Achievement) is the process to measure the progress and achievement of learners on non-accredited learning programmes.



CONGRATULATIONS! The “**More Than Autistic Woodland Volunteers**” (LEAP Students) has been chosen for the next round of the **Co-op Local Community Fund**. The funding round will open on 27 October 2019 and close on 24 October 2020. During this phase, Co-op Members will be able to choose us as their local cause. Every time a member buys selected own-brand products and services, 1% of the money goes to our local cause in their community, so it's important we raise our profile and encourage members to choose our cause. To get us ready for the launch, please could supporters, volunteers, friends and family of WHS, Lakeside College and LEAP College become a Co-op Member. You can join online at membership.coop.co.uk/new-registration

Funding for local causes



We look forward to sharing the outcome of LEAP's Ofsted inspection (September 2019) in the next Wargrave News.

Enovert